

WHO'S DONE WHAT FOR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN MONTANA?

Since 2005, the year the Renewable Portfolio Standard was enacted, a number of significant energy development projects have taken place in Montana. This paper explains who did what.

Public Utilities

NorthWestern Energy

1. Entered into a contract with Invenergy which led to the construction of the Judith Gap Wind Farm. 135 megawatt (MW) plant with a capital cost of \$170 million. The contract was signed before the Renewable Portfolio Standard bill was enacted.
2. Entered into a contract with Basin Creek Power which led to the construction of the Basin Creek Generating Plant, a 52 MW gas-fired peaking plant. Capital investment totaled \$40 million.
3. Purchased a 222 MW share of Colstrip 4. Locked in a long-term stable price for consumers for 35 years. Value of the asset: \$406 million.
4. In the final stages of regulatory review process for the Mill Creek Generating Station, a 200 MW natural gas-fired regulation service facility. The plant will integrate wind onto the NorthWestern system. Cost projected at \$202 million.
5. Currently permitting the Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI), a 500 kV transmission line linking Southwestern Montana with Southern Idaho. Projected cost of the project is \$800 million.

The estimated value of these five projects is \$1.6 billion.

MDU Resources

MDU is currently constructing the Diamond Willow Wind Farm near Baker, Montana. The project will be 30 MW in size with a capital cost of \$62.5 million.

Large Scale Merchant Developers

7. NaturEner has completed the first phase of a major wind farm between Shelby and Cut Bank. Phase I was 105 MW at a cost of \$132 million.

8. Tonbridge Power, Inc. has permitted the Montana-Alberta Tie Line (MATL), a 230 kV transmission line linking Great Falls with Lethbridge, Alberta. Projected cost is \$140 million. Construction is scheduled to start later this year.

Cooperatives

9. Basin Electric Cooperative has received an air quality permit for a 91 MW natural gas-fired power plant to be located near Culbertson in Northeastern Montana. Capital cost of the project is forecast to be \$100 million.

Small Scale Renewables

10. Six small renewable projects have gone on line under Qualifying Facility contracts with NorthWestern Energy. The projects collectively total 3.7 MW. Capital cost is unknown but likely to be low since these types of projects frequently are built with salvaged materials and used equipment.

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